

Struck-by Hazards

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Struck-by hazards can come from a variety of activities, work environments, and tasks such as:

- Working on or near roads, bridges, or highways
- Working below elevated structures such as scaffolds or where cranes are lifting materials overhead
- Using compressed air, pneumatic tools, or powder actuated tools
- Working near heavy equipment such as excavators, backhoes, or cranes
- Working inside of trenches or excavations
- Working as a rigger, or near rigging, lifting, or materials handling operations
- Using hand tools such as chisels, hammers, or wire clippers

OSHA Standard 1926.102(a)(2) *The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses eye protection that provides side protection when there is a hazard from flying objects.*

Remember these tips to recognize and avoid possible struck-by hazards:

- Workers must be trained and familiar with the use of power tools including pneumatic, electrical, and powder actuated tools.
- All safety devices, guards, and switches should be kept in place and used to prevent accidental discharge of the tool.
- Workers in trenches and excavations should be in visible line-of-sight of equipment operators to avoid being struck by the equipment.
- Workers should wear high visibility clothing such as safety vests to make them visible to equipment operators, site, or road traffic.
- Equipment with obstructed views to the rear should be equipped with audible alarms and working horns.

OSHA Standard 1926.451(h)(1) *In addition to wearing hardhats each employee on a scaffold shall be provided with additional protection from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects... When the falling objects are too large, heavy or massive to be contained or deflected... the employer shall place such potential falling objects away from the edge of the surface from which they could fall and shall secure those materials as necessary to prevent their falling.*

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